

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 1 at line 26 and ending on Page 2 at line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

One factor that must be considered when contemplating the lofting of relatively large payloads to relatively high elevations is wind. Specifically, wind can be a concern during payload lofting, and in addition, once the payload has reached the desired elevated position, at which time it is generally desirable to maintain the payload as stationary as possible. Indeed, such systems are often required to remain operational at wind speeds of 35 knots or more and survive wind speeds ~~[[or]]~~ of 50 knots or more without damage. Moreover, higher wind speeds are typically experienced at higher payload elevations.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 3 at line 6 and ending on Page 3 at line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

In one particular embodiment of the system, a plurality of guy wires are attached to the envelope to hold the envelope during inflation and after the envelope has been fully inflated. Typically, this includes a pair of upper guy wires that are staked to the ground and attached to the envelope at the second ~~envelop~~ envelope end, and a pair of intermediate guy wires that are staked to the ground and attached to the envelope between (e.g. midway between) the first and second envelope ends.